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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/616,515

Applicant(s)

SINCLAIR ET AL.

Examiner

Glenford Madamba

Art Unit

2151

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to Claim Amendments and remarks filed by Applicant's representative on October 15, 2007.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 15, 2007 has been entered.

Response to Amendments and Remarks

1. With respect to Applicant's latest submission, Applicant's arguments / claim amendments filed October 15, 2007 have been fully considered but are now considered moot in light of the new grounds of rejection provided below for the current set of pending claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-6 and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mastrianni et al, U.S. Patent US 6,615,276 B1 in view of Evans et al (hereinafter Evans), U.S. Patent 6,799,286 and in further view of Emerson, U.S. Patent Publication US 2004/0036679 A1.

As per Claims 1 and 14, Mastrianni in view of Evans and in further view of Emerson discloses a connection manager (Connection Manager 208) [Fig. 2 & 3] comprising:

a dialer (Dialer) [Fig. 7 & 8] configured to interact with a modem to provide a connection to a service provider;

a graphical user interface configured to manipulate parameters associated with the connection, the graphical user interface including a form component (GUI) [Fig. 3] [col 3, L50-52]; and

an advice window configured to be displayed with the graphical user interface in response to user actions associated with the form component, wherein the advice window is configured for initial display when the form component is available for manipulation by the user but before the manipulated form component is selected by the user.

Mastrianni discloses as his invention a software facility for administering and executing connectivity and information management tasks for a portable device, includes a module for selectively adding, deleting, and editing a location object, and a module for selectively initiating a request for a connection, disconnection, and information synchronization, based on the location object. The location object represents all location-specific information for the portable device and includes an information object including information management tasks that must be performed for a specific location for the portable device to connect to a remote network [Abstract].

But while Mastrianni discloses substantial features of the invention such as the connection manager of claim 3, he does not expressly disclose the manager wherein the advice window is displayed if a caps lock feature is active. The added feature is disclosed by Evans in a related feature.

Evans discloses as his invention methods and arrangements that automatically display error information during a logon process or other similar process. The method and arrangements automatically display error information associated with a user input field through the use of non-modal display mechanisms within a graphical interface unit.

The method and arrangements monitor user input activities and automatically stop displaying the error information upon subsequent user input. The methods and arrangements may also stop the display of the error information after a defined period of time has elapsed. A tip balloon is one type of a non-modal display mechanism that does require the user to respond and does not interfere graphically and/or operationally with the ongoing graphical user interface supported process [Abstract].

In particular, Evans teaches that a non-modal, error balloon 118 (window) is selectively displayed within a graphical user interface (GUI) display 100 on display 47 in an attempt to assist a user attempting to logon to computer 20. The user is told of the error from a previous password entry, and provided with a suggestion (advice) about retyping the password with the Caps Lock key off [col 3, L50-60].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine and/or modify Mastrianni's invention with the added feature of the manager wherein the advice window is displayed if a caps lock feature is active, as disclosed by Evans, for the motivation of providing error information, in a non-modal manner, within a GUI computing environment [col 1, L10-5 & 61-67].

Further, while the combination of Mastrianni and Evans discloses substantial features of the invention, as above, the additionally recited feature of the advice window configured for initial display when the form component is available for manipulation by the user but before the manipulated form component is selected by the user is expressly disclosed by Emerson in a related endeavor.

Emerson discloses as his invention computer software providing a 'visual alert' to the user when the keyboard is in CAPS LOCK mode of operation by presenting either or both of a unique text insertion cursor or a unique mouse text pointer in place of the standard text insertion cursor or mouse text pointer [Abstract]. In particular, Emerson discloses the additionally recited feature of the advice window configured for initial display when the form component is available for manipulation by the user but before the manipulated form component is selected by the user (e.g., providing an *audible / visual indicator, alert* and/or *'message'* to the user that the keyboard state is in the "CAPS LOCK" mode when the user begins to type in the input text component) [0087-089] [0092-0095] [0099-0101] [0017] [0128-0129] [Figs 7-9].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Mastrianni and Evans with the above said added feature, as disclosed by Emerson, for the motivation of providing a computer system or application software that has the means to alert a user (e.g., typist) when the keyboard is in CAPS LOCK mode [0085-0086].

As per Claims 2 and 15, Mastrianni discloses the connection manager of claim 1, wherein the form component includes a text entry component [Figs. 5-9, 16].

As per Claims 3 and 16, Mastrianni discloses the connection manager of claim 2, wherein at least one of the user actions is entry of text into the text entry component

(e.g. Login info / password [col 3, L56 – col 4, L20] [Figs. 5-9, 16].

As per Claims 4 and 17, Mastrianni in view of Evans discloses the connection manager of claim 3, wherein the advice window is displayed if a caps lock feature is active.

Mastrianni discloses as his invention a software facility for administering and executing connectivity and information management tasks for a portable device, includes a module for selectively adding, deleting, and editing a location object, and a module for selectively initiating a request for a connection, disconnection, and information synchronization, based on the location object. The location object represents all location-specific information for the portable device and includes an information object including information management tasks that must be performed for a specific location for the portable device to connect to a remote network [Abstract].

But while Mastrianni discloses substantial features of the invention such as the connection manager of claim 3, he does not expressly disclose the manager wherein the advice window is displayed if a caps lock feature is active. The added feature is disclosed by Evans in a related feature.

Evans discloses as his invention methods and arrangements that automatically display error information during a logon process or other similar process. The method and arrangements automatically display error information associated with a user input field through the use of non-modal display mechanisms within a graphical interface unit. The method and arrangements monitor user input activities and automatically

stop displaying the error information upon subsequent user input. The methods and arrangements may also stop the display of the error information after a defined period of time has elapsed. A tip balloon is one type of a non-modal display mechanism that does require the user to respond and does not interfere graphically and/or operationally with the ongoing graphical user interface supported process [Abstract].

In particular, Evans teaches that a non-modal, error balloon 118 (window) is selectively displayed within a graphical user interface (GUI) display 100 on display 47 in an attempt to assist a user attempting to logon to computer 20. The user is told of the error from a previous password entry, and provided with a suggestion (advice) about retyping the password with the Caps Lock key off [col 3, L50-60].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine and/or modify Mastrianni's invention with the added feature of the manager wherein the advice window is displayed if a caps lock feature is active, as disclosed by Evans, for the motivation of providing error information, in a non-modal manner, within a GUI computing environment [col 1, L10-5 & 61-67].

As per Claims 5 and 18, Mastrianni in view of Evans discloses the connection manager of claim 3, wherein the advice window is displayed if the entered text fails a criterion.

While Mastrianni discloses substantial features of the invention such as the connection manager of claim 3, he does not expressly disclose the manager wherein

the advice window is displayed if the entered text fails a criteria. The added feature is disclosed by Evans in a related feature.

Evans discloses as his invention methods and arrangements that automatically display error information during a logon process or other similar process. The method and arrangements automatically display error information associated with a user input field through the use of non-modal display mechanisms within a graphical interface unit. The method and arrangements monitor user input activities and automatically stop displaying the error information upon subsequent user input. The methods and arrangements may also stop the display of the error information after a defined period of time has elapsed. A tip balloon is one type of a non-modal display mechanism that does require the user to respond and does not interfere graphically and/or operationally with the ongoing graphical user interface supported process [Abstract].

In particular, Evans that during a login process, a user will need to input their password in input field 110 and confirm the input by hitting ENTER on their keyboard 40, or by graphically selecting (e.g. clicking) "go" button [col 4, L21-24]. If the password is incorrect, then the authorizing program generates a corresponding error indicator or other like error data. *Corresponding Error Information 116* is then 'displayed', via error balloon 118 [col 4, L31-40].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine and/or modify Mastrianni's invention with the added feature of the manager wherein the advice window is displayed if the entered text fails a criteria, as

disclosed by Evans, for the motivation of providing error information, in a non-modal manner, within a GUI computing environment [col 1, L10-5 & 61-67].

As per Claims 6 and 19, Mastrianni in view of Evans discloses the connection manager of claim 1, wherein the form component is a button.

While Mastrianni discloses substantial features of the invention such as the connection manager of claim 3, he does not expressly disclose the manager wherein the form component is a button. The added feature is disclosed by Evans in a related feature.

Evans discloses as his invention methods and arrangements that automatically display error information during a logon process or other similar process. The method and arrangements automatically display error information associated with a user input field through the use of non-modal display mechanisms within a graphical interface unit. The method and arrangements monitor user input activities and automatically stop displaying the error information upon subsequent user input. The methods and arrangements may also stop the display of the error information after a defined period of time has elapsed. A tip balloon is one type of a non-modal display mechanism that does require the user to respond and does not interfere graphically and/or operationally with the ongoing graphical user interface supported process [Abstract].

In particular, Evans that during a login process, a user will need to input their password in input field 110 and confirm the input by hitting ENTER on their keyboard 40, or by graphically selecting (e.g. clicking) "go" button [col 4, L21-24]. If the password is incorrect, then the authorizing program generates a corresponding error indicator or other like error data. *Corresponding Error Information 116* is then 'displayed', via error balloon 118 [col 4, L31-40].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine and/or modify Mastrianni's invention with the added feature of the manager wherein the form component is a button, as disclosed by Evans, for the motivation of providing error information, in a non-modal manner, within a GUI computing environment [col 1, L10-5 & 61-67].

3. Claims 7, 8, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mastrianni in view of Evans et al (hereinafter Evans), U.S. Patent 6,799,286 and in further view of Friedman, U.S. Patent Publication US 2004/0148362 A1.

As per Claims 7 and 20, Mastrianni in view of Evans and in further view of Friedman discloses the connection manager of claim 1, wherein the advice window minimizes upon the expiration of a time period.

While the combination of Mastrianni and Evans discloses substantial features of the invention, such as the connection manager of claim 1 wherein a advice window is displayed if the CAPS LOCK feature is activated or if entered text fails a criteria, as well as the deactivation of the Balloon Error window 118 upon the expiration of a certain amount of time [col 4, L47-54], neither reference expressly discloses the connection manager wherein the advice window minimizes upon the expiration of a time period. The feature is taught by Friedman in a related endeavor.

Friedman discloses as his invention systems and methods for managing and aggregating media formats, and more particularly, to systems and methods that deliver functionality of many different media players via a single interface [0002]. The systems and methods of the invention can be made available to users on a subscription basis (e.g., via dial-up) [0009]. Friedman also discloses graphical user interface (GUI) 7 of a universal media player. The GUI incorporates visual controls such as *icons*, pull-down menus, pushbuttons, a cursor, and a mouse. Friedman teaches that GUI 7 can be displayed "full-screen", and can function while reduced to some fraction of available screen area, or while completely *minimized* or "icon-sized" [0047-0048].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combined invention of Mastrianni and Evans with the feature of the connection manager wherein the advice window minimizes upon the expiration of a time period, as disclosed by Friedman, for the motivation of remotely obtaining the most recent versions of media formats such that updates are provided via a single network interface between the client device and the remote server [Abstract] [0002].

As per Claims 8 and 21, Mastrianni in view of Evans and in further view of Friedman discloses the connection manager of claim 1, wherein the advice window minimizes to an icon.

While the combination of Mastrianni and Evans discloses substantial features of the invention, such as the connection manager of claim 1 wherein a advice window is displayed if the CAPS LOCK feature is activated or if entered text fails a criteria, as well as minimizing upon the expiration of a time period, neither reference expressly discloses the connection manager wherein the advice window minimizes to an icon. The feature is taught by Friedman in a related endeavor.

Friedman discloses as his invention systems and methods for managing and aggregating media formats, and more particularly, to systems and methods that deliver functionality of many different media players via a single interface [0002]. The systems and methods of the invention can be made available to users on a subscription basis (e.g., via dial-up) [0009]. Friedman also discloses graphical user interface (GUI) 7 of a universal media player. The GUI incorporates visual controls such as *icons*, pull-down menus, pushbuttons, a cursor, and a mouse. Friedman teaches that GUI 7 can be displayed "full-screen", and can function while reduced to some fraction of available screen area, or while completely minimized or "icon-sized" [0047-0048].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combined invention of Mastrianni and Evans with the feature of

the connection manager wherein the advice window minimizes to an icon, as disclosed by Friedman, for the motivation of remotely obtaining the most recent versions of media formats such that updates are provided via a single network interface between the client device and the remote server [Abstract] [0002].

4. Claims 9-13 and 25-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mastrianni in view of Evans in view of Emerson and in further view of Sunder et al (hereinafter Sunder), U.S. Patent Publication US 2005/0055371 A1.

As per Claim 9, Mastrianni in view of Evans in view of Emerson and in further view of Sunder discloses the connection manager of claim 1, further comprising: a list of phone numbers retrievable from a memory device and associated with the service provider, each phone number in the list of phone numbers having an associated priority number.

While the combination of Mastrianni, Evans and Emerson discloses substantial features of the invention such as the connection manager of claim 1, the added feature of the manager further comprising: a list of phone numbers retrievable from a memory device and associated with the service provider, each phone number in the list of phone numbers having an associated priority number. is expressly disclosed by Sunder in a related feature.

Sunder discloses as his invention a method and system for managing a network connection application (Connection Application 26 or "Dialer"). The method includes assigning a plurality of selection criteria to each connection point wherein each selection criteria bearing an associated selection weight. The connection points are then arranged in a prioritized order in a priority list used by the connection application to connect to any of the connection points (Points of Presence /POPs). The prioritized order is based on the selection criteria and associated selection weights. The prioritized list is then made available for use by the connection application [Abstract] [0030-0031] [0053] [0057] [Figs. 2-5].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Mastrianni, Evans and Emerson with the added feature of the manager the manager further comprising: a list of phone numbers retrievable from a memory device and associated with the service provider, each phone number in the list of phone numbers having an associated priority number, as disclosed by Sunder, for the motivation of providing a system for managing connection of a connection application, such as a Dialer, to one of a plurality of connection points [0001], to provide ISPs with the ability to offer Internet roaming solutions, especially to business customers [0003] and to prioritize network access points [0004].

As per Claim 10, Mastrianni in view of Evans in view of Emerson and in further view of Sunder discloses the connection manager of claim 9, wherein the phone numbers in the list of phone numbers are sorted in accordance with the priority number and wherein the phone numbers in the order as sorted are sequentially used in attempts to connect to the service provider.

While the combination of Mastrianni, Evans and Emerson discloses substantial features of the invention such as the connection manager of claim 9, the added feature of the manager wherein the phone numbers in the list of phone numbers are sorted in accordance with the priority number and wherein the phone numbers in the order as sorted are sequentially used in attempts to connect to the service provider is disclosed by Sunder in a related feature.

Sunder discloses as his invention a method and system for managing a network connection application (Connection Application 26 or "Dialer"). The method includes assigning a plurality of selection criteria to each connection point wherein each selection criteria bearing an associated selection weight. The connection points are then arranged in a prioritized order in a priority list used by the connection application to connect to any of the connection points (Points of Presence /POPs). The prioritized order is based on the selection criteria and associated selection weights. The prioritized list is then made available for use by the connection application [Abstract] [0030-0031] [0053] [0057] [Figs. 2-5]. With particular reference to Figures 4, 5, and 9 Sunder discloses the phone numbers of the plurality of access points sorted in

accordance with a 'priority' order (POP selection criteria weights) [Figs. 4 & 9] and accessed sequentially in attempts to connect to the service provider [Fig. 4].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Mastrianni, Evans and Emerson with the added feature of the manager wherein the phone numbers in the list of phone numbers are sorted in accordance with the priority number and wherein the phone numbers in the order as sorted are sequentially used in attempts to connect to the service provider, as disclosed by Sunder, for the motivation of providing a system for managing connection of a connection application, such as a Dialer, to one of a plurality of connection points [0001], to provide ISPs with the ability to offer Internet roaming solutions, especially to business customers [0003] and to prioritize network access points [0004].

As per Claim 11, Mastrianni (in view of Evans in view of Emerson and in further view of Sunder) discloses the connection manager of claim 9, further comprising: an update tool configured to interact with the service provider to manipulate the list of phone numbers [Figs. 7 & 8].

As per Claim 12, Mastrianni in (in view of Evans in view of Emerson and in further view of Sunder) discloses the connection manager of claim 11, wherein phone numbers in the list of phone numbers are edited [Figs. 7 & 8] [Abstract].

As per Claim 13, Mastrianni (in view of Evans in view of Emerson and in further view of

Sunder) discloses the connection manager of claim 11, wherein priority numbers associated with the list of phone numbers are edited using the update tool [Figs. 7 & 8] [Abstract].

As per Claim 22, Mastrianni in view of Evans in view of Emerson and in further view of Sunder discloses the method of claim 14, further comprising: sorting a list of phone numbers to produce a priority sorted list, each phone number in the list of phone numbers associated with an associated priority number, wherein the sorting is conducted in accordance with the priority numbers.

While the combination of Mastrianni, Evans and Emerson discloses substantial features of the invention such as the connection manager of claim 1, the added feature of the manager further comprising: sorting a list of phone numbers to produce a priority sorted list, each phone number in the list of phone numbers associated with an associated priority number, wherein the sorting is conducted in accordance with the priority numbers is disclosed by Sunder in a related feature.

Sunder discloses as his invention a method and system for managing a network connection application (Connection Application 26 or "Dialer"). The method includes assigning a plurality of selection criteria to each connection point wherein each selection criteria bearing an associated selection weight. The connection points are then arranged in a prioritized order in a priority list used by the connection application to connect to any of the connection points (Points of Presence /POPs). The prioritized

order is based on the selection criteria and associated selection weights. The prioritized list is then made available for use by the connection application [Abstract] [0030-0031] [0053] [0057] [Figs. 2-5].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Mastrianni, Evans and Emerson with the added feature of the manager further comprising sorting a list of phone numbers to produce a priority sorted list, each phone number in the list of phone numbers associated with an associated priority number, wherein the sorting is conducted in accordance with the priority numbers, as disclosed by Sunder, for the motivation of providing a system for managing connection of a connection application, such as a Dialer, to one of a plurality of connection points [0001], to provide ISPs with the ability to offer Internet roaming solutions, especially to business customers [0003] and to prioritize network access points [0004].

As per Claim 23, Mastrianni in view of Evans in view of Emerson and in further view of Sunder discloses the method of claim 22, further comprising directing the dialer to dial a phone number from the priority sorted list.

While the combination of Mastrianni, Evans and Emerson discloses substantial features of the invention such as the connection manager of claim 1, the added feature

of the manager further comprising directing the dialer to dial a phone number from the priority sorted list is disclosed by Sunder in a related feature.

Sunder discloses as his invention a method and system for managing a network connection application (Connection Application 26 or "Dialer"). The method includes assigning a plurality of selection criteria to each connection point wherein each selection criteria bearing an associated selection weight. The connection points are then arranged in a prioritized order in a priority list used by the connection application to connect to any of the connection points (Points of Presence /POPs). The prioritized order is based on the selection criteria and associated selection weights. The prioritized list is then made available for use by the connection application [Abstract] [0030-0031] [0053] [0057] [Figs. 2-5]. Sunder expressly discloses the added feature of the manager further comprising directing the dialer (26) to dial a phone number from the priority sorted list [Fig. 4].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Mastrianni, Evans and Emerson with the added feature of the manager further comprising directing the dialer to dial a phone number from the priority sorted list, as disclosed by Sunder, for the motivation of providing a system for managing connection of a connection application, such as a Dialer, to one of a plurality of connection points [0001], to provide ISPs with the ability to offer Internet roaming solutions, especially to business customers [0003] and to prioritize network access points [0004].

As per Claim 24, Mastrianni (in view of Evans in view of Emerson and in further view of Sunder) discloses the method of claim 22, further comprising: activating an update tool configured to communicate with the service provider for the purpose of manipulating the list of phone numbers [Fig. 8].

As per Claim 25, Mastrianni in view of Evans in view of Emerson and in further view of Sunder discloses a connection manager (Connection Manager) [Figs. 3 & 4] comprising:

- a dialer (Dialer) [Fig. 7 & 8] to interact with a modem [Fig. 5] to provide a connection to a service provider;

- an error handling component configured to apply diagnostic logic *to an error associated with the dialer*;

- an error handling user interface configured to display a query and acquire a response from a user, wherein the query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions when applying the diagnostic logic to address the error associated with the dialer; and

- an error handling message proxy configured to provide communication between the error handling component and the error handling user interface

While the combination of Mastrianni, Evans and Emerson discloses substantial features of the invention such as the connection manager and dialer of claim 1, the

dialer interacting with a modem to provide a connection to a service provider, he does not expressly disclose the manager further comprising an error handling component configured to apply diagnostic logic *to an error associated with the dialer*, , wherein the query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions when applying the diagnostic logic to address the error associated with the dialer; an error handling user interface configured to display a query and acquire a response from a user; and an error handling message proxy configured to provide communication between the error handling component and the error handling user interface. The added features are disclosed by Sunder in a related endeavor.

Sunder discloses as his invention a method and system for managing a network connection application (Connection Application 26 or "Dialer"). The method includes assigning a plurality of selection criteria to each connection point wherein each selection criteria bearing an associated selection weight. The connection points are then arranged in a prioritized order in a priority list used by the connection application to connect to any of the connection points (Points of Presence /POPs). The prioritized order is based on the selection criteria and associated selection weights. The prioritized list is then made available for use by the connection application [Abstract] [0030-0031] [0053] [0057] [Figs. 2-5].

In particular, Sunder discloses the added features of the manager and dialer further comprising an error handling component (SQM Process Tool 86 / SQM Agent 28) [0094-0099] configured to apply diagnostic logic *to an error associated with the dialer* (Error Codes) [0099-0110] wherein the query is configured to ask permission from

a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions when applying the diagnostic logic to address the error associated with the dialer; and an error handling user interface configured to display a query and acquire a response from a user (GUI 32); and an error handling message proxy (Server 35) [Fig.3] configured to provide communication between the error handling component and the error handling user interface [0016-0025] [0046] [0057-0059] [0080-0081] [Figs. 3-7] .

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Mastrianni, Evans and Emerson with the above said added feature, as disclosed by Sunder, for the motivation of providing a system for managing connection of a connection application, such as a Dialer, to one of a plurality of connection points [0001], to provide ISPs with the ability to offer Internet roaming solutions, especially to business customers [0003] and to prioritize network access points [0004].

Additionally, the recited feature of a user-query, such as an advice window or a message / help balloon that “asks for permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions...to address the error” is expressly disclosed by Emerson (e.g., display of *Visual Message Indicator* or Alert / Balloon or Help Message to the user, in the case of ‘user input error’, for example) [Abstract].

As per Claim 26, Mastrianni in view of Evans in view of Emerson and in further view of Sunder discloses the connection manager of claim 25, wherein the error handling component (SQM Process Tool 86 / SQM Agent 28) [0094-0099] directs the error handling user interface (GUI 32) to display a user query (e.g. message) in response to detecting the error [0099-0112].

While the combination of Mastrianni, Evans and Emerson discloses substantial features of the invention such as the connection manager and dialer of claim 1, the dialer interacting with a modem to provide a connection to a service provider, the added feature of the manager further comprising wherein the error handling component directs the error handling user interface to display a user query in response to detecting the error is disclosed by Sunder in a related endeavor.

Sunder discloses as his invention a method and system for managing a network connection application (Connection Application 26 or "Dialer"). The method includes assigning a plurality of selection criteria to each connection point wherein each selection criteria bearing an associated selection weight. The connection points are then arranged in a prioritized order in a priority list used by the connection application to connect to any of the connection points (Points of Presence /POPs). The prioritized order is based on the selection criteria and associated selection weights. The prioritized list is then made available for use by the connection application [Abstract] [0030-0031] [0053] [0057] [Figs. 2-5]. In particular, Sunder discloses the added features of the

manager wherein the error handling component (SQM Process Tool 86 / SQM Agent 28) [0094-0099] directs the error handling user interface (GUI 32) to display a user query (e.g. message / Error Codes returned to the user) in response to detecting the error [0099-0112].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Mastrianni, Evans and Emerson with the added feature of the manager wherein the error handling component directs the error handling user interface to display a user query in response to detecting the error, as disclosed by Sunder, for the motivation of providing a system for managing connection of a connection application, such as a Dialer, to one of a plurality of connection points [0001], to provide ISPs with the ability to offer Internet roaming solutions, especially to business customers [0003] and to prioritize network access points [0004].

As per Claim 27, Mastrianni in view of Evans in view of Emerson and in further view of Sunder discloses the connection manager of claim 25, wherein the error handling component performs a parameter test in response to a user action associated with the error handling user interface.

While the combination of Mastrianni, Evans and Emerson discloses substantial features of the invention such as the connection manager and dialer of claim 1, the dialer interacting with a modem to provide a connection to a service provider, the

additionally recited feature of the manager wherein the error handling component performs a parameter test in response to a user action associated with the error handling user interface is disclosed by Sunder in a related endeavor.

Sunder discloses as his invention a method and system for managing a network connection application (Connection Application 26 or "Dialer"). The method includes assigning a plurality of selection criteria to each connection point wherein each selection criteria bearing an associated selection weight. The connection points are then arranged in a prioritized order in a priority list used by the connection application to connect to any of the connection points (Points of Presence /POPs). The prioritized order is based on the selection criteria and associated selection weights. The prioritized list is then made available for use by the connection application [Abstract] [0030-0031] [0053] [0057] [Figs. 2-5]. In particular, Sunder discloses the added features of the manager wherein the error handling component performs a parameter test in response to a user action associated with the error handling user interface (e.g. collecting POPs performance data or 'parameters') [0098-0110].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Mastrianni, Evans and Emerson with the added feature of the manager wherein the error handling component performs a parameter test in response to a user action associated with the error handling user interface, as disclosed by Sunder, for the motivation of providing a system for managing connection of a connection application, such as a Dialer, to one of a plurality of connection points

[0001], to provide ISPs with the ability to offer Internet roaming solutions, especially to business customers [0003] and to prioritize network access points [0004].

As per Claim 28, Mastrianni in view of Evans in view of Emerson and in further view of Sunder discloses the connection manager of claim 25, wherein the error handling component *changes a parameter value* (e.g. POPs priority / associated weight) in response to a user action (connection /reconnection attempt with one or more prioritized POPs) associated with the error handling user interface (GUI 32) [0112] [Fig. 7].

While the combination of Mastrianni, Evans and Emerson discloses substantial features of the invention such as the connection manager and dialer of claim 1, the dialer interacting with a modem to provide a connection to a service provider, he does not expressly disclose the manager wherein the error handling component *changes a parameter value* in response to a user action associated with the error handling user interface. The added features are disclosed by Sunder in a related endeavor.

Sunder discloses as his invention a method and system for managing a network connection application (Connection Application 26 or "Dialer"). The method includes assigning a plurality of selection criteria to each connection point wherein each selection criteria bearing an associated selection weight. The connection points are then arranged in a prioritized order in a priority list used by the connection application to connect to any of the connection points (Points of Presence /POPs). The prioritized

order is based on the selection criteria and associated selection weights. The prioritized list is then made available for use by the connection application [Abstract] [0030-0031] [0053] [0057] [Figs. 2-5]. In particular, Sunder discloses the added features of the manager wherein the error handling component *changes a parameter value* (e.g. POPs priority / associated weight) in response to a user action (connection /reconnection attempt with one or more prioritized POPs) associated with the error handling user interface (GUI 32) [0112] [Fig. 7].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Mastrianni, Evans and Emerson with the added feature of the manager wherein the error handling component *changes a parameter value* in response to a user action associated with the error handling user interface, for the motivation of providing a system for managing connection of a connection application, such as a Dialer, to one of a plurality of connection points [0001], to provide ISPs with the ability to offer Internet roaming solutions, especially to business customers [0003] and to prioritize network access points [0004].

As per Claim 29, Mastrianni in view of Evans in view of Emerson and in further view of Sunder discloses the connection manager of claim 25, wherein the *error* is selected from a group consisting of an *authentication failure*, a *modem port availability failure*, a *port disconnection failure*, a *server response error*, a *line busy error*, a *no answer error*, a *dial tone failure*.

While the combination of Mastrianni, Evans and Emerson discloses substantial features of the invention such as the connection manager and dialer of claim 1, the dialer interacting with a modem to provide a connection to a service provider, he does not expressly disclose the manager wherein the *error* is selected from a group consisting of an *authentication failure, a modem port availability failure, a port disconnection failure, a server response error, a line busy error, a no answer error, a dial tone failure*. The added features are disclosed by Sunder in a related endeavor.

Sunder discloses as his invention a method and system for managing a network connection application (Connection Application 26 or "Dialer"). The method includes assigning a plurality of selection criteria to each connection point wherein each selection criteria bearing an associated selection weight. The connection points are then arranged in a prioritized order in a priority list used by the connection application to connect to any of the connection points (Points of Presence /POPs). The prioritized order is based on the selection criteria and associated selection weights. The prioritized list is then made available for use by the connection application [Abstract] [0030-0031] [0053] [0057] [Figs. 2-5]. In particular, Sunder discloses the added features of the manager wherein the *error* is selected from a group consisting of an *authentication failure, a modem port availability failure, a port disconnection failure, a server response error, a line busy error, a no answer error, a dial tone failure* [0099-0110].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Mastrianni, Evans and Emerson with the added feature of the manager wherein the *error* is selected from a group consisting of an

authentication failure, a modem port availability failure, a port disconnection failure, a server response error, a line busy error, a no answer error, a dial tone failure, for the motivation of providing a system for managing connection of a connection application, such as a Dialer, to one of a plurality of connection points [0001], to provide ISPs with the ability to offer Internet roaming solutions, especially to business customers [0003] and to prioritize network access points [0004].

As per Claim 30, Mastrianni in view of Evans in view of Emerson and in further view of Sunder discloses a method to manage connecting a computation device to a service provider, the method comprising:

- initiating an error handling component associated with a dialer, the dialer configured to interact with a modem to provide a connection to a service provider;
- detecting an error associated with the dialer using the error handling component;
- directing an error handling user interface to display a user query, wherein the directing is performed by the error handling component; and
- performing a parameter test using the error handling component in response to a user input associated with the error handling user interface.

Claim 30 recites the same limitations as Claim 25, except for the added limitation of performing a parameter test using the error handling component in response to a user input associated with the error handling user interface, also disclosed by Sunder

(e.g. collecting POPs performance data or 'parameters') [0098-0110], and is thus rejected on the same basis.

As per Claim 31, Mastrianni in view of Evans in view of Emerson and in further view of Sunder discloses a method of claim 30, further comprising manipulating a parameter using the error handling component in response to a user action associated with the error handling user interface.

Claim 31 recites the same limitation as Claim 28 and is thus rejected on the same basis.

As per Claim 32, Mastrianni in view of Evans in view of Emerson and in further view of Sunder discloses a method of claim 30, wherein the error is selected from a group consisting of an authentication failure, a modem port availability failure, a port disconnection failure, a server response error, a line busy error, a no answer error, and a dial tone failure.

Claim 32 recites the same limitation as Claim 29 and is thus rejected on the same basis.

Conclusion

1. The Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.
2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Glenford Madamba whose telephone number is 571-272-7989. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Valencia Wallace Martin can be reached on 571-272-3440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published

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applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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